

TROWBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1944.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Population, 14,250.						
		M.		F.		Total.
Live Births :	Legitimate ...	...	117	...	110	227
	Illegitimate ...	...	9	...	13	22
Total ...		...	126	...	123	249
Still Births :	Legitimate ...	...	1	...	5	6
	Illegitimate ...	...	1	...	0	1
Total ...		...	2	...	5	7
Deaths from All Causes ...		...	85	...	96	181
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :						
Legitimate ...		...	2	...	1	3
Illegitimate ...		...	1	...	4	5
Total ...		...	3	...	5	8
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years of age ...		...	1	...	1	2

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

		Urban District.		England and Wales.	
Live Birth Rate ...	...	17.5	per 1000 population	17.6	
Still Birth Rate ...	...	.49	„ „ „	..	.50
Death Rate (all causes)		12.6	„ „ „	..	11.6
Death Rate, Infants under 1 year ...	...	.32	„ 1000 Live Births		46
Death Rate for Diarrhoea under 2 years ...	...	.80	„ „ „	..	4.8

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFICATIONS ARRANGED FOR SEX AND AGE.

Age Group.	Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.		Erysipelas.		Cerebro-spinal Fever.		Measles.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	13	8	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	4	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
25 and over	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Age un-known	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Civilians	20	16	3	2	—	2	—	1	—	—
Non-Civilian	M.	F.							M.	F.
15	—	—							—	—
25 and over	1	—							—	1
Total Non-Civilian	1	—							—	1

Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 3 male.

SUMMARY OF DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

	M.	F.	Total.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	2	3	5
Influenza ...	2	2	4
Cancer of Mouth, Gullet (M.) and Uterus (F.)	0	1	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	4	2	6
Cancer of Breast ...	0	4	4
Cancer of all other sites ...	9	7	16
Diabetes ...	0	4	4
Intracranial Vascular Lesions ...	5	11	16
Heart Disease ...	27	31	58
Other diseases of the Circulatory System ...	3	2	5
Bronchitis ...	6	5	11
Pneumonia ...	4	1	5
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	1	0	1

						M.	F.	Total.	
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	0	...	2
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1	1	...	2
Appendicitis	0	1	...	1
Other Digestive Diseases	2	0	...	2
Nephritis	4	4	...	8
Maternal Causes other than Sepsis	0	2	...	2
Congenital Malformations, etc.	2	2	...	4
Suicide	0	1	...	1
Other Violent Causes	1	1	...	2
All other causes	10	11	...	21

The general health of the town has remained good. Many cases occurred of a mild dysenteric type—probably a Sonne infection, lasting a few days only in the vast majority of cases. There was no evidence that it was water- or milk-borne.

Scarlet Fever.—Of the 36 cases of Scarlet Fever, only one was seriously ill. The rest were extremely mild with no complications. The Isolation Hospital was able to admit a large number of them, a few being nursed at home where conditions were favourable.

Diphtheria.—Five cases of Diphtheria occurred in one area of the town; all were in non-immunised children, and only one was at all seriously ill—a girl past school age. After another case that produced symptoms suggestive of clinical diphtheria had been reported, an investigation was made by members of Professor Wilson's staff of specialists of the children in the school where they occurred. It was found that 192 out of 230 children had been immunised; of those remaining another 11 came for immunisation. No other cases occurred throughout the subsequent part of the year. It was found that the sixth child was not a case of diphtheria, but of Vincent's Angina, which cleared up with Sulphonilamide treatment.

Immunisation against diphtheria has been carried on steadily by a member of the County Medical Staff, especially among the youngest age group. The vast majority of mothers now ask for it to be carried out, and few children are not done at the age of one year.

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply of water to the town has been sufficient throughout the year for all needs. There has been no question of contamination.

The Trowbridge and Melksham Water Board have given one of their regular monthly samples, dated 15th July, 1944, for publication.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

Appearance : Clear and colourless.

Reaction : pH 7.1.

					Parts per 100,000.
Free and Saline Ammonia less than ...	...	...	...	...	0.001
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	...	...	...	...	0.002
Chlorine ...	...	...	...	...	1.3
Do. equivalent to Sodium Chloride ...	...	...	...	...	2.1
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs.) ...	...	...	...	...	0.025
Nitrite ...	...	...	...	...	absent
Nitrates (Nitrogen as) ...	...	...	...	...	0.09
Total Solids ...	...	...	...	...	35.5
Loss on ignition ...	...	...	...	...	1.0
Appearance on ignition ...	...	...	...	very slight charring	
Hardness : Temporary ...	...	...	...	...	26.3
Do. Permanent ...	...	...	...	...	2.3
Total ...					28.6
Lead and Copper ...	...	...	...	...	absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Colonies on Agar at 20° C. ... 4 per ml.

Do. at 37° C., less than ... 1 „

Organisms of the Coli-ærogenes Group, absent from 100 ml.

These figures are very satisfactory and indicate that the usual high standard is being well maintained.

WATERFALL & O'BRIEN.

SEWAGE WORKS.

No major alterations have been made ; the works have proved sufficient for all requirements.

HOUSING.

The Council had proceeded with plans for temporary houses on a site owned by them and were also proceeding to obtain sites for permanent houses.

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Medical Officer of Health.